

SENATE BILL 315

By Kyle

AN ACT to authorize the State of Tennessee, acting by resolution of its funding board, to issue and sell its interest-bearing bonds and bond anticipation notes in amounts not to exceed two hundred sixty-two million dollars (\$262,000,000) for the purpose of providing funds to the department of finance and administration to make grants to The Industrial Development Board of the City of Chattanooga, The Health, Educational and Housing Facility Board of the City of Chattanooga, Tennessee, The Industrial Development Board of the county of Montgomery, and the Tennessee board of regents to provide for acquisition of equipment and acquisition, site preparation, erection, construction and equipment of sites and buildings, and infrastructure improvements and development; to issue its debt in excess of the previously stated amount to fund discount and costs of issuance; and to provide for the expenditure of said funds. This act makes appropriations for an indefinite period of time for the purpose of allocating the proceeds of the bonds and notes authorized by this act

WHEREAS, the General Assembly recognizes the importance to the economic welfare and prosperity of the State of promoting economic growth, employment and community development in the State and has in the past created the department of economic and community development to further such development and authorized the department to seek businesses to locate in the State; and

WHEREAS, the department has entered into memoranda of understanding with Volkswagen Group of America, Inc., with the project to be undertaken by Volkswagen Group of America Chattanooga Operations, LLC (collectively, "Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.") to locate a new facility in Hamilton County, Tennessee, and with Hemlock Semiconductor, L.L.C.,

with the project to be undertaken by HSCPC, L.L.C. (collectively, "Hemlock Semiconductor, L.L.C.") to locate a new facility in Montgomery County; and

WHEREAS, these new facilities will provide a substantial number of jobs and promote further economic growth, employment and community development not only in those counties but in the State as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly finds that making grants to The Industrial Development Board of the City of Chattanooga, The Health, Educational and Housing Facility Board of the City of Chattanooga, Tennessee, The Industrial Development Board of the County of Montgomery, and the Tennessee board of regents for acquisition of equipment and acquisition, site preparation, erection, construction and equipment of sites and buildings, and infrastructure improvements and development in support of the location of Volkswagen Group of America, Inc. and Hemlock Semiconductor, L.L.C. in Tennessee in accordance with the memoranda of understanding will serve the public purpose of promoting economic and community development in the State and for its inhabitants as a body and is related to the function of the department of economic and community development in furthering such growth; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. The State of Tennessee, acting by resolutions of its funding board, is hereby authorized and empowered to issue and sell direct general obligation interest-bearing bonds of the State of Tennessee in amounts not to exceed two hundred sixty-two million dollars (\$262,000,000) to effectuate the purposes specified in Section 4 of this act. Further, the funding board is authorized to sell bonds in amounts not to exceed 2.5% of the amounts specified above and authorized in Section 4, for the purpose of funding discount and costs of issuance. Such bonds may be issued and sold in one (1) block or in several installments and separately or together with other general obligation bonds of the State of Tennessee as the board may determine, either at public or private sale as provided by law.

SECTION 2. The bonds and the interest-bearing coupons attached thereto, if any, shall be in such form, mature at such time or times within twenty (20) years from the date of their issuance, be executed in such manner, be payable at such place or places both as to principal and interest, and be in such denominations and bear such rate or rates of interest, payable in such manner, as the funding board shall by resolution direct; provided, however, that the maximum rate determined by the funding board in no instance shall exceed the legal rate as provided in Section 47-14-103 of Tennessee Code Annotated. The proceeds derived from the sale of the bonds shall be paid to the state treasurer to be disbursed by the treasurer and other fiscal officers and agencies of the state as provided by general law and this act. The bonds and interest payable thereon shall be exempt from taxation by the State of Tennessee or by any county, municipality or taxing district of the state except inheritance, transfer and estate taxes.

SECTION 3. When the bonds are so issued and sold, they shall be direct general obligations of the State of Tennessee for the payment of which well and truly to be made according to the tenor, effect and terms thereof the full faith and credit of the state together with its taxing power, shall irrevocably be pledged; and the bonds as authorized herein shall be issued agreeable to the terms of Title 9, Chapter 9, Tennessee Code Annotated; and they shall be financed, retired, and paid both as to principal and interest as provided in that chapter and shall be subject to the terms and conditions therein and herein contained. When the bonds are sold and proceeds paid over to the state treasurer, the funds shall be paid out by the treasurer and the proper fiscal officers of the state, as provided by general law, but only (except for accrued interest paid as part of the purchase price) on order of the proper administrative authorities of the agency or department herein named for the benefit of which such bonds have been authorized and only to the extent such bonds have in fact been issued for the benefit of such agency or department.

SECTION 4. The proceeds of any and all issues of bonds herein authorized shall be allocated to the following departments:

(1) Department of finance and administration in the amount of one hundred seventy million dollars (\$170,000,000) and expended for the purpose of making grants to The Industrial Development Board of the City of Chattanooga and The Health, Educational and Housing Facility Board of the City of Chattanooga, Tennessee, for the Volkswagen Group of America, Inc. Project and expended for the purpose of acquisition of equipment and acquisition, site preparation, erection, construction and equipment of sites and buildings, and infrastructure improvements and development including but not limited to sewer, water, utility infrastructure, and rail infrastructure, whether or not such infrastructure is owned by The Industrial Development Board of the City of Chattanooga or The Health, Educational and Housing Facility Board of the City of Chattanooga, Tennessee; and

(2) Department of finance and administration in the amount of ninety-two million dollars (\$92,000,000) and expended for the purpose of making grants to The Industrial Development Board of the County of Montgomery and the Tennessee Board of Regents for the Hemlock Semiconductor, L.L.C. Project and expended for the purpose of acquisition of equipment and acquisition, site preparation, erection, construction and equipment of sites and buildings, and infrastructure improvements and development including but not limited to sewer, water, utility infrastructure, and rail infrastructure, whether or not such infrastructure is owned by The Industrial Development Board of the County of Montgomery or the Tennessee board of regents.

Such grants shall be made by the department of finance and administration only if such project grant is approved by the state building commission. Such grants so identified and

approved are determined to be for a public purpose for the reasons and findings previously set forth.

In its discretion, the funding board is authorized to issue bonds in amounts not to exceed 2.5% of the amounts specified above, the proceeds of which are to be allocated to the funding board and expended for the purpose of funding discount and the costs of issuance.

SECTION 5. The proper authorities heretofore enumerated and charged with the duty of expending the funds shall have authority to proceed with the projects authorized herein by the state building commission and in accordance with the terms of the aforesaid grants.

SECTION 6. The appropriation made to each agency or department as provided in Section 4 may be applied as determined by the funding board to bear its appropriate portion of discount and costs of issuance.

SECTION 7. Pending the issuance of the definite bonds authorized by this act, the State of Tennessee, acting by resolutions of its funding board, is hereby authorized and empowered to issue and sell, either at public or private sale, together with accrued interest thereon, its interest bearing bond anticipation note or notes. Such note or notes shall be authorized by resolution of the funding board, shall bear such date or dates, as such resolution or resolutions provide. The note or notes shall bear interest at such rate or rates, be in such denominations, be in such form, be executed in such manner, be payable in such medium of payment, at such place or places and mature on such date(s), subject to such terms and conditions as such resolution or resolutions may provide. In its discretion, the funding board may provide that a bond anticipation note or any renewal of such note may mature more than five (5) years from the date of issue of the original note; provided, that an amortization schedule of repayment of principal is established for the project funded by the note and provisions are made such that any note or renewal note or bond refunding such note attributed to the financing of such project shall be redeemed or retired no later than either twenty-five (25) years from the date of issue of such

original note or twenty (20) years from the date the project is completed and placed in full service, whichever is earlier. Provisions of general law with respect to authentication, execution and registration of general obligation bonds of the State of Tennessee shall also apply to the notes to the extent applicable. The note or notes and the interest payable thereon shall be exempt from taxation by the State of Tennessee or by any county, municipality or taxing district of the state except inheritance, transfer and estate taxes. Any resolution or resolutions of the funding board authorizing the issuance of such bond anticipation note or notes shall provide that the same are issued in anticipation of the bonds authorized hereunder and shall further provide that the full faith and credit of the State of Tennessee are pledged to the payment thereof.

SECTION 8. No bonds shall be issued under the authority of this act until such time as the general assembly has appropriated sufficient funds to pay the first year's obligation of principal and interest on the amount of bonds to be issued and the state funding board has determined that such funds are available.

SECTION 9. Notwithstanding any other provision of this act to the contrary, the bonds and bond anticipation notes authorized by this act may be designated "college savings bonds" and be issued pursuant to the provisions of the Baccalaureate Education Savings for Tennessee Act, Chapter 190, Public Acts of 1989.

SECTION 10. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 11. No expenditure of public funds pursuant to this act shall be made in violation of the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as codified in 42 United States Code 2000(d).

SECTION 12. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.